

Highlights

Major highlights of the 2001 Newport Thoroughfare Plan are outlined below. The Thoroughfare Plan map is shown in Figure 2. Projects included in the 2002-2008 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) are shown in parenthesis.

1. **Intersection of Chatham Street, East Railroad, West Railroad and Market Street:** Major improvements are needed to the six-legged intersection. Signalization of the intersection is also recommended.
2. **Hibbs Road (SR 1141):** It is recommended that this facility be widened to a 3-lane cross-section between Chatham Street (SR 1247) and US 70. It is also recommended that Hibbs Road be widened to a five-lane cross-section from US 70 to the southern planning area boundary.
3. **Market Street Connector:** Construction on new location a two-lane facility from Mill Creek Road (SR 1154) to Market Street (SR 1137) east of Orange Street (SR 1154). This new facility would reduce traffic on Orange Street and provide for a continuous traffic flow from the Mill Creek area to US 70 once the recommended intersection improvements are made at Chatham Street (SR 1247) and Market Street.
4. **Mill Creek Road Extension:** This new minor thoroughfare would connect Mill Creek Road (SR 1154) to East Chatham Street (SR 1247). The construction of this new facility would reduce traffic from the Mill Creek area that is bound for Morehead City or the port. A number of trucks would use this facility to bypass the downtown area and would reduce truck traffic on Main Street in Newport.
5. **Nine Foot Road (SR 1124):** It is recommended as a safety improvement to widen this facility from an existing eighteen foot cross-section to a twenty-four foot cross-section from the western planning area boundary to US 70. This improvement will also increase the capacity of Nine Foot Road.
6. **Intersection Improvements at both US 70 and Chatham Street (SR 1247) intersections:** These improvements would reduce the number of accidents at these intersections while increasing the site distance and improving the intersection configuration. Over a three year period these two intersections were identified as high accident locations. With increased traffic volumes on US 70 and Chatham Street, these intersections will continue to have a high occurrence of accidents if no improvements are made.
7. **Realignment of Masontown Road (SR 1127) and Pine Grove Road (SR 1132):** As a safety and connectivity improvement, it is recommended that Masontown Road and Pine Grove Road be realigned to fix the offset intersection.

The North Carolina Department of Transportation and the Town of Newport are jointly responsible for the proposed thoroughfare improvements. Cooperation between the State and the Town is of primary concern if the recommendations outlined above are to be successfully implemented. All